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of style and general comprehensiveness of statement to the volumes on *Equity Jurisprudence*, are not out of place as companions to the latter; and in the six volumes of the series, we undoubtedly have the most complete and helpful work that has yet appeared upon the general subject of equitable jurisdiction.

H. B. HUTCHINS.

THE CONFEDERATION AND THE CONSTITUTION, 1783-1789. By Andrew Cunningham McLaughlin, A. M., Director of the Bureau of Historical Research, Carnegie Institution. New York and London: Harper & Brothers, 1905, pp. xix, 348.

This is the tenth volume of *The American Nation*, edited by Dr. Albert Bushnell Hart, and treats of the important period following the Revolution up to the adoption of the Constitution.

Though the editor suggests that it seems doubtful whether this period "was really a time of such danger of national dissolution as people then and since have supposed," the author certainly does little to lessen the reader's notion of the reality of the peril, but rather shows quite clearly how and why a crisis had been reached in the affairs of the sovereign states making necessary the establishment of a "more perfect union" than had been possible under the Articles of Confederation.

He deprecates, however, passing the Articles by with an amused smile at their unfitness for the work at hand: "As a matter of fact, they were in many respects models of what articles of confederation ought to be, an advance on previous instruments of like kind in the world's history. Their inadequacy arose from the fact that a mere confederacy of sovereign states was not adapted to the social, political, and industrial needs of the time." (p. 49). Emphasizing the fact that the Revolution had been a civil war, the author shows that the problem before the men of those times was "The Problem of Imperial Organization." (Ch. III).

The difficulties under which this problem was worked out are depicted in a dramatic narrative culminating in a noteworthy chapter on "The Law of the Land." (Ch. XV). In this chapter it is shown how "the new government was to act by its own laws on its own citizens; and in addition the states were to be placed in a distinctly legal relationship, and were to be bound to recognize their duties as legal duties; the Constitution was to be the law of the land, enforceable in state courts, to be applied by state judges, to be appealed to by state citizens asking their own judges for justice."

The whole work testifies to the legal and historical knowledge of the author and to his patient and critical examination of the sources. It is written, moreover, in such an attractive style that one finds it difficult to lay the book down when once he has opened it. Its perusal is more than a pleasure. In closing the volume one is left with the impression that he has been told the story of this "critical period" by a thoughtful, intelligent and impartial eyewitness of the events of which he tells.